

TECHNIQUE FOR PROVIDING ACCESS TO DATA

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data retrieval system provides data to a user of a client computer connected to multiple data stores and multiple other computers. A request for data is received at the client computer. The request is forwarded from the client computer to a server computer. The request is intercepted at a reverse proxy caching connection. An attempt is made to locate the data at a data store at the reverse proxy caching connection. If the data is not found at the reverse proxy caching connection, the request is forwarded to the server computer.

In order to provide data to a user, a user interface is provided to enable the user to identify desired data. The desired data is retrieved and provided to the user. The user interface has a number of elements, including enabling users to create music filters, to create custom stations, and to share custom stations with other users.

Also, the data that is provided is selected in a unique manner. Initially, data elements associated with a grouping of data elements are identified. Then, a subset of the selected data elements are selected based on weights associated with the data elements, without selecting more than a specified number of data elements that are associated with a same sub-category.